

SEPTIC SYSTEM REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT CAN IMPROVE YOUR PROPERTY VALUE

Septic repair permit

A permit to repair an existing onsite septic system can include replacement, addition, or alteration of a sewage tank, distribution box, or tight lines, including any replacement, addition, or alteration to a drainfield.

Step-by-Step Process:

1. Contact a certified Master Installer in King County.
2. Master Installer submits a repair proposal to Public Health – Seattle & King County.
3. If approved by Public Health, an application for permit is submitted by the Master Installer. If disapproved, a new or modified proposal must be submitted, typically by a licensed Designer.
4. After permit is issued by Public Health, repair is completed by Master Installer.
5. Repair is inspected by Public Health.
6. As-built of repair is submitted to Public Health by Master Installer.

TIP: For a repair, the installer should inspect the property, look at the soil logs, and determine cause of failure PRIOR to any proposals.

Septic replacement permit

A replacement permit is required when your septic system will be replaced with a new system.

Step-by-Step Process:

1. Depending on size of the replacement, contact a certified Designer, Master Installer or qualified Professional Engineer.
2. Your septic system professional submits a design proposal, called a “site application,” to Public Health.
3. If approved by Public Health, an application for permit is submitted by your septic system professional. If disapproved, a new or modified proposal must be submitted.
4. The Designer or qualified Professional Engineer conducts a pre-installation (AKA “stub-out”) inspection and gives report to the Master Installer and Public Health.
5. After permit is issued by Public Health, the installation is completed by Master Installer.
6. Installation is inspected by Designer.
7. Installation is inspected by Public Health.
8. As-built of replacement septic system submitted by Designer or qualified Professional Engineer.

Questions to ask your septic system professional

Ask your Designer, qualified Professional Engineer or Master Installer:

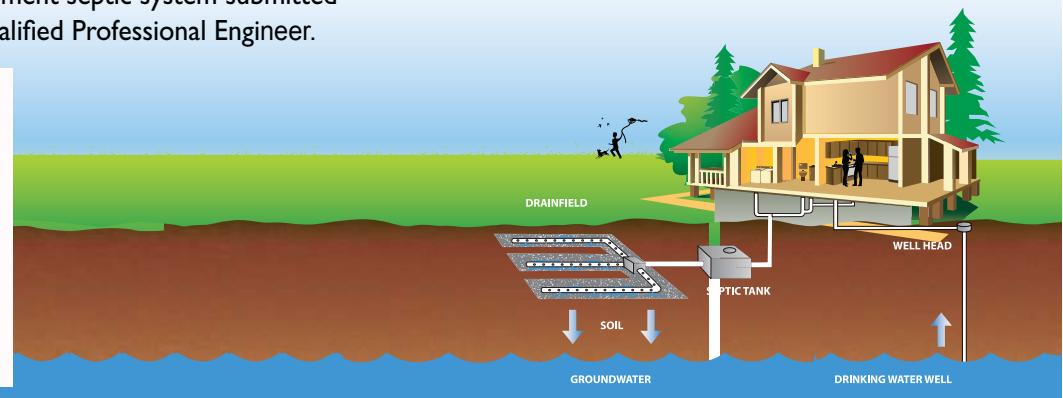
1. What is the price of the following? (some of these services are included in one fee):
 - Preliminary site evaluation
 - Soil log digging
 - Design
 - Stub-out inspection
 - Pressure test
 - Installation inspection
 - Backfill inspection
 - As-built package
2. Do you charge extra for the Homeowner's manual?
3. Do you charge for extra visits or consultations?
4. Does the bid include the County fees?
5. Do you charge extra for backfill labor?
6. Is the cost for the backfill material included?
7. Is the timer (if required) included in the bid?
8. Do you guarantee your work? Will you complete repairs if there is a problem?

Working together we can protect the environment

Public Health
Seattle & King County



Wastewater Program 206-296-4932
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/wastewater.aspx>



AVOID REPAIR - PRACTICE SEPTIC SYSTEM CARE

HOUSEHOLD PRACTICES

Keep solids, toxics, oils and grease out of the drain

- ✗ Fats, oils, grease
- ✗ Harsh chemicals or cleaners, liquid drain de-cloggers, paint thinner, excessive bleach
- ✗ Exceeding the label's recommended amount of detergent
- ✗ Bath oils, excessive soaps
- ✗ Old medications
- ✗ Kitchen scraps, coffee grinds, avoid garbage disposal use
- ✗ Floss, hair, feminine products, condoms, kitty litter
- ✗ Baby wipes, tissue, paper towels, excessive toilet paper

Reduce and control water usage

- ✓ Space loads of laundry throughout the week
- ✓ Fix leaking sinks and toilets
- ✓ Use high-efficiency washers, low-flow toilets and showerheads if possible
- ✗ Don't drain hot tubs into septic tank or onto the drainfield

THE SEPTIC TANK

Perform tank pumping and maintenance

- ✓ Have a Health District–Certified On-Site System Maintainer inspect your septic system and drainfield every year. See the Public Health website below* or call for a current list of certified maintainers
- ✓ Learn your system type and maintenance schedule
- ✓ Have your system pumped approximately every three years based on your inspector's recommendation
- ✓ Clean outlet screen yearly (if your tank has one)
- ✓ Keep inspection and maintenance records
- ✗ Additives to “boost function” are not recommended.

THE DRAINFIELD

Protect your drainfield and reserve areas

- ✗ No structures, parking, livestock, roof drainage or runoff near the drainfield
- ✗ No irrigation or sprinkler systems near the drainfield
- ✓ Plant only grass or shallow-rooted plants
- ✓ Call Public Health–Seattle and King County Wastewater Program for a map of your drainfield

Regularly inspect your drainfield

- ✓ Check for odors, wet spots or surfacing sewage
- ✓ If your drainfield has monitoring ports, check them every few weeks; ports that continually contain over six inches of water could indicate a problem